



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

****NEWS RELEASE****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-42

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Burmaster announces 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

New grants will support 97 community learning centers

MADISON—Programs that provide academic support and enrichment to students during out-of-school time will share \$8.8 million in federal 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants.

Schools and community organizations work in partnership to run 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which provide academic, recreational, cultural, and personal enrichment and support to students after school, before school, or during the summer. Centers typically target their services to students with high academic needs and students from economically disadvantaged families.

“Community learning centers are helping us close the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

The Department of Public Instruction awarded grants for 97 new and continuing community learning centers that will serve students in fall of 2008. The competitive grants targeted funds to schools in which at least 40 percent or more of enrolled students are identified as low-income and in which a significant number of students are performing below proficiency in math and reading. Forty-three schools, school districts, and community organizations will receive 46 five-year grants for starting new centers and 51 three-year grants to continue operation of existing centers.

“Our research has shown that a majority of students who visit 21st Century Community Learning Centers achieve more in school, participate in classes more regularly, are more motivated and

(more)

attentive, and get along better with other students and teachers,” said Burmaster. Similar research from around the country has arrived at comparable findings.

The new sites bring the statewide total of community learning centers currently receiving grant funding to 173. Combined, these centers will share \$15.6 million in federal 21st Century Community Learning Center funding.

The \$8.8 million awarded this year is substantially greater than the amount available in previous years. This increase is due to the leadership of U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Chair Dave Obey (D-Wausau). Even with the boost, the DPI reviewed many more requests for funding than it could grant.

“It’s clear these centers are an effective strategy for raising student achievement,” said Burmaster, “and communities around Wisconsin are very excited about starting them.”

In addition to direct student support, 21st Century Community Learning Centers promote parent involvement through family literacy events, parental skill development programming, and other outreach activities. After-school programs are required to align with school activities to further efforts to close the achievement gap.

The National Education Commission on Time and Reporting recommends that schools respond to individual and varied needs of students, their families, and their communities by staying open beyond regular school hours. A recent national study found that students involved in quality after-school programs exhibited higher achievement and better behavior than students who were largely unsupervised after school. Further research, summarized by the National Governor’s Association, states that extra learning opportunities contribute to better school attendance, improved engagement in school, and increased achievement in math and reading.

###

NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_42.pdf. A complete list of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CLC) grantees is available at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/clc.html>. Scroll to the section “Additional CLC Resources and Forms.”

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

2008-09 grantees receiving funding for new or continuing centers

Appleton Area School District, \$675,000	Lac du Flambeau Public School, \$75,000
Ashland School District, \$200,000	Lake Holcombe School District, \$100,000
Augusta School District, \$100,000	Madison Metropolitan School District, \$375,000
Beaver Dam Unified School District, \$199,980	Menasha Joint School District, \$100,000
Beloit School District, \$200,000	Menominee Indian School District, \$50,000
Birchwood School, \$75,000	Merrill Area Public School District, \$75,000
Black River Falls School District, \$75,000	Milwaukee Public Schools, \$2,800,000
Boys & Girls Club of Barron County, \$100,000	Neenah Joint School District, \$100,000
Central City Cyberschool (Milwaukee), \$75,000	Northwood School District, \$100,000
Clintonville Public Schools, \$200,000	Oshkosh Area School District, \$75,000
Eau Claire School District, \$75,000	Osseo-Fairchild School District, \$75,000
Flambeau, School District of, \$75,000	Racine Unified School District, \$500,000
Fond du Lac School District, \$75,000	Rhineland School District, \$96,733
Glidden School District, \$75,000	Sheboygan Area School District, \$200,000
Goodman Atwood Community Center (Madison), \$200,000	Sparta Area School District, \$64,523
Green Bay Area Public Schools, \$225,000	Superior School District, \$75,000
Gresham School District, \$50,000	Two Rivers Public Schools, \$100,000
Hurley School District, \$100,000	United Community Center (Milwaukee), \$100,000
Janesville School District, \$200,000	Wautoma Area School District, \$100,000
Kenosha Unified School District, \$275,000	Westfield School District, \$75,000
La Crosse School District, \$175,000	Winter School District, \$75,000
	Wisconsin Rapids School District, \$100,000